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**SUGGS' FLAT FRAME BURNERS**  
effect an economy in gas of  
30 Per Cent.

And can be readily attached to ordinary Gas-lights and Burners.

**SUGGS' NEWEST BURNERS** with  
Artistic shades for Drawing Room and Dining  
Room.

**LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.,**  
Agents for Hongkong.

**ARTIST PORCELAIN MENU  
STANDS.**  
**HAND-PAINTED MENU AND NAME  
CARDS.**

**LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.,**

**DEVOES' NONPAREIL KEROSINE**  
150 degrees dist. test, perfectly safe Oil.

**LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.,**

Hongkong, 5th May, 1933.

## NOTICE.

**A. S. WATSON AND CO.,**  
FAMILY AND DISPENSING.

**By Appointment to His Excellency the Go-  
vernment and His Royal Highness the**

**DUKE OF EDINBURGH,**

**WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS,**

**PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS,**

**And**

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business communications be addressed to the  
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Manager," and not to individuals by name.

Correspondents are requested to forward their names  
and address, with communications addressed to the  
Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good  
faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one  
side of the paper only.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not  
ordered for a fixed period will be continued until  
cancelled.

Orders for extra copies of this Daily Press should be  
sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.  
After that hour the supply is limited.

## The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, MAY 22ND, 1933.

On Saturday, when referring to the political  
situation as between the Governments of  
France and China, we expressed the belief  
that the Chinese mandarins were attempting  
to bluff the French Government, and that  
the probability was that, unless their pre-  
sented belittled attitude, they would not  
actually appeal to the sword. From the  
statements in the Shanghai papers received  
yesterday it seems, however, possible that  
China may, through the senseless folly of  
her rulers, drift into war with France, in  
which case the war will certainly have cause  
to rue the mad precipitancy that led her into  
so unequal, so hopeless a conflict. The  
Nineteen correspondent of the N. C. Daily  
News, writing on the 8th inst., says that  
H. H. CHANG has received orders to proceed  
direct from his home in Anhui to Canton,  
taking the first steamer at Shanghai. From  
Canton his instructions are to go to Annam,  
presumably to Hue, and endeavor to arrange  
matters, or otherwise prepare for a contest.  
The N. C. Daily News—we think rather  
foolishly—assumes that, in the event of  
hostilities breaking out, Tonkin will neces-  
sarily be the seat of war, but a little con-  
sideration will suffice to show that this is a  
mistake. The Chinese would find great difficulty  
in either effecting a landing on the coast of  
Tonkin or of marching an army through  
Kwangsi or Yunan to the frontier. To do  
this would require a great deal of time, and  
the French would, in the meanwhile, have a  
large force ready to repel attack from either  
quarter. The French have an admirable  
base for their operations in Saigon and in  
a short time get a large naval and military  
force, including an Algerian contingent.  
On the other hand, the Chinese Government  
have really no good base in the south except  
Canton, which might very probably fall into  
the hands of the French naval squadron.  
The *Mercure*, discussing the resources of  
China, and the sinews of war at her  
command, says:—"The Chinese fleet, which  
comprises useful gunboats, two ra-  
vellers of exceptional power and speed,  
and about a dozen small craft, each  
"carrying one cannon of enormous size,  
and range, would, in skilful hands,  
"almost suffice for the defence of the coast  
of China. But for a war in the Gulf of  
Tonkin, away from machine shops, repair-  
ing docks, and coal depots, the alphabetical  
"gunboats will be not only useless but a  
"positive encumbrance to a cruising fleet."  
The "very great mechanical merits of the  
"vessels built for China by Armstrong  
"and Co., will, in time of war, constitute a  
"serious disadvantage. There are no highly  
"trained Chinese mechanics or skilled  
"Chinese gunners, and the vessels, elaborated  
"as they are with delicate and elaborate  
"machinery, will be quickly disabled in  
"active service through the ignorance  
"and incompetence of the Chinese crews.  
"With regard to the Chinese land forces,  
"the only soldiers of the Empire  
"are those of Li in Chihli. Li had  
"in 1876 about 60,000 men, but owing  
"to the revolt of 1877 and subsequent gen-  
"eral retrenchment, the force does not now  
"exceed 45,000 men, and may even be less.  
"The infantry regiments are well clothed,  
"drill well, and are armed with one good  
"rifle, the German Mauser breech-loader.  
"The cavalry is deficient in number, and of  
"little use, save for scouting. The artillery  
"is not bad, and against Chinese rebels or  
"Chinlese soldiers would be capable of acting  
"with effect. But against French or Rus-  
"sian artillery the Chinese force would be  
"rather helpless. It has from 16 to 20 bat-  
"teries of Krupp's 8 and 16-pounder field  
"guns, but the guns have been bought  
"during a number of years, and are of three

patterns, each of which is for different  
"charges, and the guns vary accordingly in  
"trajectory force and quality. The ammuni-  
"tion and projectiles made for No. 1 are use-  
"less for Nos. 2 and 3; the drill, too, varies  
"somewhat. The Chinese artillery, therefore,  
"would not be a trustworthy or useful force,  
"and if the magazines were to be shifted from  
"Chihli to Canton, or Kwangsi, it is certain  
"that intolerable confusion will arise. It  
"would be time lost if we discussed the ques-  
"tion of the provincial armies of China, as  
"they are more mobs of men, some few with  
"good arms, and the majority armed just the  
"same as in 1842. The raw material of the  
"troops is, however, good, and given time,  
"liberal outfit, skilled officers, and scientific  
"direction, China would become a formidable  
"military power. But at present the only  
"real soldiers in the Empire are those of Li,  
"and his officers are unskilled and of indif-  
"ferent quality, utterly unfit to carry on  
"operations of war, except such as are purely  
"defensive, against a trained enemy.  
"Under all circumstances it would, as we have  
"previously pointed out, be the duty of the  
"Chinese Government to rush in-  
"stantly to a war with a first-class Western Power.  
"China is not prepared for such an encounter,  
"and her belittled attitude would only prove a  
"source of severe loss to her.  
"Her ships and guns would fall into the  
"hands of the enemy, and her own territory  
"could hardly expect much sympathy from  
"other Western Powers, to whom the man-  
"darins have latterly displayed so much  
"hostility. Nor can the Peking Govern-  
"ment count very positively on the neu-  
"trality of all other nations. Russia  
"has never failed to profit by opportunities  
"offered, and might seize the occasion to de-  
"mand the permanent cession of Kashgaria  
"and Manchuria. Japan might take ad-  
"vantage of the complication to demand the  
"revision of her treaty and the recognition of  
"the Mikado's sovereignty over the Loochoo  
"islands. Portugal would be very lacking in  
"sentiment if she forebore to press the accept-  
"ance of the treaty before presented to the  
"Emperor. And finally the King of Siam  
"might reasonably also present a request for  
"the recognition of the independence of his  
"country, the more so seeing that for many  
"years Siam has enjoyed virtual freedom from  
"all interference from Peking. Indeed, it  
"is difficult to foresee all the rocks ahead  
"for China in this contemplated appeal to  
"force; it would prove like the letting out  
"of waters, beneath whose resistless flow  
"the dynasty might perchance be engulfed,  
"and even the integrity of the Empire re-  
"ceive a fatal shock. It is possible, however,  
"that the Peking Authorities are not blind  
"to the perils they run; *audemus magis  
"scire timor*, and the mandarins hope by  
"making a show of courage they do not pos-  
"sess to frighten the French out of Tonkin.  
"This would be consistent with the past acts  
"of the Chinese Government, and in the  
"earlier stages of intercourse with foreigners  
"fondly imagined they could terrify the  
"barbarians into prompt submission by  
"noise and show.

The N. C. Daily News has been the last  
"to make a statement that the Chinese Gov-  
"ernment has been opened. Opinions  
"as to the prices that might be paid for the  
"less offer, widely, as might be expected, but  
"there is a general agreement that the quality is  
"inferior.

Some 600 coolies are being conveyed from  
"Canton to Peking by the steamer *Admiral*, and  
"for the latest district. They are intended to be  
"employed on the railway being constructed to  
"connect the mining districts with Port Ward.

We take the following paragraph from our  
"Shanghai morning contemporary:—"A letter  
"from Macao informs us that the Portuguese  
"Minister Plenipotentiary at Peking, who has  
"been appointed to the post, is a man of great  
"ability, and that he will probably be able to  
"secure the recognition of the Portuguese Gov-  
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